

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How much does it cost to keep an offender in prison?

Currently it costs an average of \$53.08 per day (\$19,374.20 per year) to keep an adult inmate incarcerated in the State of Indiana.

2. What is the Department's annual budget?

The Department's operating budget for 2002-2003 is \$586.5 million.
The Department's operating budget for 2000-2001 is \$583.4 million.

3. Does the Department have "chain gangs?"

No. However, the Department strongly supports the policy that all inmates should work. While it is safe to assign some inmates to work outside of the prisons, it is important to screen those inmates very carefully. The Department has minimum security level inmates on several work details including assignments with the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forestry Service, County Highway Departments, and Indiana State Parks and Forests. Community service projects include maintenance at county fairgrounds, renovation at the South Bend, Indiana zoo, and renovation of a one room schoolhouse to be used as a community center.

4. How many inmates are currently on Death Row in Indiana?

There are currently 41 offenders assigned to Indiana Death Row regardless of physical location. These offenders are under active Indiana death sentence.

5. What method of execution is used in Indiana?

Since July 1, 1995, the method of execution is by lethal injection. Prior to that time electrocution was the method of execution.

6. When was the last execution in Indiana?

The last execution was June 27, 2001. James Lowery became the sixth death row inmate to be executed by lethal injection. He was executed for the crime of murder; he was found guilty of murdering an elderly couple on September 30, 1979, who once employed him as a caretaker.

7. How many inmates under 18 years of age are in adult facilities?

As of January 10, 2003, there were 43 offenders incarcerated under the Youth Incarcerated as Adults Program, 1 female and 42 males

8. What is the average age of an adult offender?

The average age for an adult male offender is 33 years. The average age for an adult female offender is 34 years.

9. If people are sent to prison for punishment, why should they be allowed televisions, radios, free education and access to gymnasiums, and libraries, as well as medical and dental care?

The State Constitution states the penal code shall be founded on the principles of reformation, and not of vindictive justice. The Department is required to provide medical and dental services to inmates as well as access to law libraries and educational programs. However, if an inmate wants to pursue post secondary education, the cost is the inmate's responsibility. Idle prisoners would require more supervision and could be a threat to the security of the facility. Therefore, it is important to not only provide programming and employment to the inmates, but allow them recreational time as well. It should be noted that most of the inmates currently incarcerated will be returning to society, and hopefully will be prepared when they do so.

10. What are the levels of security in Indiana's prison system?

The levels of security in the prison system are minimum, low medium, high medium, maximum, and super-maximum. With the exception of super-maximum, the three main considerations in assigning an offender to a security level are the committing offense, the length of sentence, and prior criminal history.

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